

Palm Sunday

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-7
Trust in God enables us to be eloquent in our witness.

Responsorial Psalm 21:8-9,17,20, 23-24
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11
Humility allows God our Father to achieve his plan for us

Gospel Acclamation

Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names.

Gospel Matthew 26:14 – 27:66
The faithfulness and trust of Jesus are not in vain.

Parish of Corpus Christi

Sacred Heart (Goldthorpe), Sacred Heart & St Helen (Hoyland) and St Michael & All Angels (Wombwell)



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Sunday 2nd April 2023

Sunday Year A

Palm Sunday of The Lord's Passion

Weekday Cycle II

"Every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord."

The "fight or flight response", also known as the acute stress response, is a physiological reaction that occurs in the presence of something that is terrifying, either mentally or physically. The response is triggered by the release of hormones that prepare the body either to stay and deal with the threat or to run away to safety. The term "fight or flight" represents the choices that our ancient ancestors had to make when faced with danger in their environment. First described in the 1920s by American physiologist Walter Cannon, a chain of reactions inside the body helps to mobilise the body's resources to deal with threatening circumstances. We can all probably think of a time when we experienced this phenomenon: in the face of something frightening, the heartbeat quickens, breathing increases and the body becomes tense and ready to act. It is normally an automatic reaction, but it can be overcome with training or determination.

St Matthew's account of Jesus' passion draws heavily on the account given in St Mark's earlier version, yet St Matthew recasts the narrative in order to highlight his own distinct themes: that the Jewish scriptures foreshadow the death in which Jesus fulfils his God-given destiny to bring about a new period of history filled with resurrection life. Jesus is also shown to be the obedient Son of God, utterly faithful and trusting even when confronted by appalling suffering, proving that his trust in God, having passed the ultimate test of death, is not in vain. The message of complete confidence in God, heard in our first reading from Isaiah, is vividly lived out in the non-resistance of Jesus, who offers his back to be scourged, his face to be slapped and spat upon. His trust in God allows him to go to his death knowing that he shall not be shamed.

St Paul, writing to the Philippians, quotes what many scholars believe to be the oldest piece of Christian prose in the New Testament; namely that Jesus showed utter trust in God, emptying himself of his own will to allow the will of the Father to be accomplished. He accepted that this was his fate, not for himself but on behalf of us and out of pure love for us. Humility of the first order is displayed by Christ as, during his passion, he moves inexorably to the point of feeling utterly alone: "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael's)	1 Apr	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Palm Sunday (Sacred Heart)	2 Apr	9.00am	Kitty Bainbridge RIP
Palm Sunday (St Helen's)	2 Apr	11.00am	Margaret and Mint Burkinshaw RIP
Tuesday (St Helen's)	4 Apr	10.00am	Bernadette McDonough Special Intention
Wednesday ST MARIE'S	5 Apr	11.00am	Chrism Mass at St Marie's Cathedral Sheffield
Holy Thursday (St Helen's) Mass of The Lord's Supper	6 Apr	7.00pm	Kathleen Mitchell RIP and Patricia Fitzgerald RIP
Good Friday (Sacred Heart)	7 Apr	3.00pm	
Easter Vigil (St Michael's)	8 Apr	8.30pm	People of the Parish
Easter Sunday (Sacred Heart)	9 Apr	9.00am	Maureen and Dennis Walton RIP
Easter Sunday (St Helen's)	9 Apr	11.00am	Barry Cooper RIP

Divine Mercy Chaplet is at 3.00pm on Fridays at St. Michael's Church

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available upon request.

The Rosary is every **Wednesday** at 1.30pm in Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe

Jesus' absolute obedience and complete trust lead to the point where he breathes his last, that final breath imitating the first breath of Genesis when God breathed over the chaos to bring about the new order of creation. St Matthew anticipates that new order of resurrection life by evoking Ezekiel's great vision of the dry bones in an explosion of triumph as the veil of the Temple is torn in two, the earth shakes, rocks split and tombs are opened. A triumphal procession of the saints who had been trapped in death enters the new Jerusalem, and the whole pagan empire – symbolised by the Roman soldiers – is astonished and can acclaim Jesus as the true Son of God.

Trust is almost the precursor of humility; it is only when we trust that we can accept that our own reactions, fears and interpretations contain within them a space which, if filled with the grace of God, has the potential to transform our desire to run away or to fight. Humility is not some kind of self-abasement, but rather an inherent strength that comes from knowing that the outcome is not in our hands alone. Miracles are not always spectacular; often miracles are silent transformations where we are not sure why we acted or reacted as we did. All we know is that something guides us forward. Trust and obedience lead us to hope in something outside of ourselves.

The compassion we exercise, the forgiveness we offer, the sacrifices we make often happen not as fight or flight, but rather as obedient solidarity where we hope the outcome will be one of grace, not desertion; of silence, not empty words; of life, not death. Hope enables us to proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that death can never have the final word. Inspired by the obedience of Christ, we echo the words of the great Czech statesman Václav Havel: "Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out."

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Marie Bray (nee Walsh), Peter Gillott, Jan Dextor, Percy Winterton, Kath Hardy, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Hout, Michael Bennett, Janette Barber, Paddy McNicholas, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, Justin Phillip Collins, Hannah Prentiss, Pat Hermitage, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Terry Mullins, Matthew Deakin, Margaret Booker, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss.

Anointing of the Sick

Fr Declan will now need more time to respond to call outs, so please do not leave it to the last minute if you have concerns about a loved one.

Chrism Mass at St Marie`s Cathedral

St Marie`s in Sheffield will be celebrating a Chrism Mass at 11.00am on Wednesday, 5th April. All are welcome.

Second Collection for the Holy Places

There will be a second collection on Good Friday for the Holy Places in Palestine.

Churches Together in Hoyland & District

Churches Together in Hoyland are holding a Good Friday Service outside Hoyland Common Co-op. Please see notice in the church porch for details.

Parish Raffle for Lee Conway`s 3 Peaks Challenge

1st Prize A Marks and Spencer's Food Hamper value £50, (non-perishable items)

2nd Prize A bottle of Whisky and half a bottle of Pink Champagne

3rd Prize A £25 Morrison's Supermarket Voucher.

Raffle Proceeds are for Lee Conway`s 3 Peaks Walk in April. All monies will then be given to support travel to World Youth Event in Portugal later this year for Hallam Youth. Tickets are £5 each. Please show your support by buying a ticket.

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Thank you for your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day on 3rd March. The final total was £638.48. You can still donate online at cafod.org.uk/give .

Offertory Envelopes

New Offertory envelopes starting on Easter Sunday, 9th April, are available for those who require them. If you haven't had envelopes before and wish to use them, please send an email, telephone or ask Fr Declan.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The Bonus Ball last Saturday was number 28. The winner in St Helen`s was M Smith winning £25. The winner in Sacred Heart was M Walton, winning £50 rollover. Spares numbers are available in Sacred Heart. Please see George Burnitt if you would like a number.

Agewell

Agewell meet alternate Wednesdays in St Michael`s Church Hall and are looking for new members. It's an opportunity to meet people, have a cuppa in a warm environment, be entertained by interesting guest Speakers and enjoy day trips throughout the year. The AGM is on Wednesday 12th April and on Wednesday 26th April there will be a coach trip to visit Boundary Mills in Oswaldtwistle, costing £20. The trip is open to anyone.

If you are interested in joining the Agewell group or have any questions, contact Geraldine Pickles 01226 750136 or 07518 486822

if you would like a number.

Damien Thorpe – Federation Executive Headteacher.

We would like to express our thanks for all Damien's hard work and dedication to our three Federation Schools. His commitment to the Staff and children of the Federation has been exemplary and he will be sadly missed. We would like to wish him well as moves on to the next chapter in his life and career.

Prayer for Vocations

Loving and generous Father: it is you who call us by name and ask us to follow you. In particular, you call some to serve you as ministers in your church. Bless our Diocese of Hallam by raising up faith-filled and dedicated priests, deacons and religious. Bless our families and choose from our homes those who are needed for your mission.

Blessed John Anne	Pray for us
Blessed Robert Ludlam	Pray for us
Blessed Nicholas Garlick	Pray for us
Blessed William Richardson	Pray for us
0 Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us